CONCENTRIC TWO-COMPARTMENT DRINKING VESSEL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, IF ANY

Not applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX, IF ANY

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention.

The present invention relates to a drinking vessel, and more particularly, to a two-compartment drinking vessel. Most particularly, the invention relates to a concentric two-compartment drinking vessel.

2. Background Information.

The state of the art includes various devices for serving and consuming beverages. In particular, an individual may desire to consume an alcoholic beverage, such as a liquor, with a non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage. A commonly accepted method of alcoholic beverage consumption is to mix and dilute a liquor with a non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage in a single drinking vessel. These mixed drinks are well known, and include martinis, manhattans, screwdrivers, gimlets, and old-fashions, to name only a few such mixed drinks. Another common

method of alcoholic beverage consumption of liquors is the so-called "a shot and a chaser" technique. A vessel containing undiluted liquor is provided and a separate second vessel containing a non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage (the chaser) is also provided. The drinker first swallows the shot of liquor from the liquor vessel, and then drinks the "chaser" from the second vessel. This technology is believed to have significant limitations and shortcomings, including but not limited to that a significant time laps occurs between the consumption of the liquor and the consumption of the non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage chaser.

For this and other reasons, a need exists for the present invention. This invention provides a single vessel for the sequential consumption of a liquor beverage followed immediately by the consumption of a non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage chaser, which is believed to fulfill the need and to constitute an improvement over the background technology.

All United States patents and patent applications, and all other published documents mentioned anywhere in this application are incorporated by reference in their entirety. Some examples of multi-compartment vessels for which patents have been granted include the following.

Sawyer, in U.S. Patent No. 149,887, describes a shaving mug with an integral vessel (B) on one side to hold a shaving brush.

In U.S. Patent No. 258,777, Leonard discloses a similar shaving mug with an integral vessel containing an inwardly positioned spout used for holding the shaving soap.

Zodac, in U.S. Patent No. 1,164,050, describes a two-compartment pail with a divider separating the pail into two equal compartments.

In U.S. Patent No. 1,275,467, Poulalion discloses a deglutitory cup for helping an individual to swallow a pill or capsule. The cup contains an internal receptacle secured adjacent the rim of the

cup. The receptacle is supported on one side by two parallel vertical ribs which secure the receptacle to the inner wall of the cup. A channel between the receptacle and the cup wall carries liquid as the cup is tilted toward the mouth of the individual. Liquid within the cup carries the pill or capsule into the individual's mouth for easy swallowing.

Judge et al., in U.S. Patent No. 1,488,397, describe another double compartment pail with a suitable handle for carrying.

In U.S. Patent No. 1,848,331, Esslinger discloses yet another two-compartment pail with an internal divider.

Turner, in U.S. Patent No. 1,941,327, describes a drinking cup with an internal divider or partition which forms at one side the large dispensing or drinking receptacle, and at the other side the smaller auxiliary receptacle, both receptacles being within the wall of the cup. Overflow from the larger drinking receptacle is collected in the smaller auxiliary receptacle.

In U.S. Patent No. 2,428,056, Wachsman discloses a drinking glass or cup with a baffle that inserts a portion of the depth of the glass or cup. The baffle prevents spillage from the container when sudden movement occurs, such as when traveling in a vehicle.

Walker, Jr., in U.S. Patent No. 3,261,494, describes an individual communion service glass that includes a smaller, shallow compartment for holding the communion wafer for bread, and a larger, deeper compartment for holding the communion wine. The wall separating the two compartments is shown as generally vertical.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,150,089, Linet discloses a multi-chamber test tube which includes a first and a second matched, separate, elongated tubular member. Means to connect the members together defines a test tube means having a dual mouth, and a stopper having a first leg and a second leg

extending from the stopper body and receivable within the first and second elongate tubular members. A pathway is provided from a central cavity in the body of the stopper through each of the legs. A one-way valve is provided in each of the leg paths which is normally closed, yet yieldable to permit flow through the leg paths in response to an elevated pressure in the cavity relative to the interior of the test tube.

Jaarsma, in U.S. Patent No. 4,277,000, describes a multi-compartment container that includes a molded body and a molded cap secured thereto. The body includes a confining wall forming a space, an internal dividing wall forming separate compartments within the space, and a base. The interface between the dividing wall and an inner side surface of the body defines a fluid seal between the compartments. The dividing wall forms an opening at an upper end of the body which communicates with one of the compartments. The cap is secured to the upper end of the body to form a seal there around. The cap includes a first port aligned with the opening in the dividing wall to form a passage therewith, and a second port communicating with the other compartment. A compressible endless seal ring is mounted in a groove in either the cap or the dividing wall to form a seal around the passage at the interface between the first port and the opening when the cap is installed onto the body portion.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,410,085, Beneziat et al. disclose a tumbler that comprises a recipient in the form of a glass whose bottom is provided with an axial tube in which is screwed the open base of a sleeve containing a flask, the opening of the latter being hermetically applied against a seal. When this sleeve is unscrewed, the contents of the flask mix with those of the glass.

Holloway, in U.S. Patent No. 4,428,490, discloses drinking vessels, such as cups, mugs, beakers, tumblers or glasses, whether of glass, plastics or other suitable material. The drinking vessels

comprise an integral "straw" and base in the form of a hollow tube, which may be singly or multiply coiled and which is in liquid flow communication with the "glass proper," herein termed a reservoir. Liquid in the reservoir can be sucked in the manner of a drinking straw or in the normal way by drinking from the rim of the reservoir.

U.S. Patent No. 4,955,503, by Propes discloses a souvenir drinking cup having a first drinking compartment and a second drinking compartment effectively isolated from each other by a partition and seal when a lid is fitted over the open top of the cup. Interfitting parts align the lid so that dispensing outlets are correctly positioned over the drinking compartments. Handles associated with each drinking compartment provide further positioned dispensing outlets for simultaneous drinking from the souvenir cup by two persons.

Ibrahim et al., in U.S. Patent No. 5,223,245, describe a mouth rinse product that includes a multi-compartment bottle with liquids of different colors stored in the compartments. The combined stream of the liquids dispensed from the bottle combine to form a liquid mixture of yet another color. Two or three separate containers with separate outlets are shown.

In U.S. Patent No. 5,398,827, Armstrong et al. disclose a multi-vessel beverage container including at least two elongated vessels or tubes which are connected in an adjacent relationship relative to each other. Each tube has an open top portion and a closed bottom portion such that each tube can hold a beverage therein. The tubes are connected such that the top portions of the tubes are disposed in generally coplanar relation relative to each other. The cross-sectional configuration of the tubes is specifically sized toward the top portions thereof to define a cumulative width between opposite sides of the tubes to facilitate simultaneous and direct pouring of the beverages from the tubes into a person's mouth where the beverages commingle with each other to provide a taste

sensation different from that provided by either individual beverage.

Frazier, in U.S. Patent No. 5,405,030, describes a drinking cup having a generally cylindrical rim portion above an at least semi-cylindrical base portion. A generally semi-cylindrical rear wall is disposed between a segment of the rim portion and the base portion, while an also semi-cylindrical front wall is disposed between the remaining segment of the rim portion and a level significantly above the base portion. A rear floor joins the lower end of the rear wall and the base portion, and an upper floor joins the front wall at the defined level. A vertical, generally central, divider defines, with the rear wall and the rear floor, a long rear compartment and also defines, with the front wall and the upper floor, a short front compartment. A handle is shaped to permit handling by either the right or left hand and may be formed during manufacture as a separate sub-assembly which includes an insert that is received to become a continuation of the front wall below the upper floor. The relative volumes of the front and rear compartments are selected so that upon draining the front compartment, the rear compartment retains a volume about half that originally poured into the drinking cup.

U.S. Patent No. 5,553,725 by Clemons describes a "quarters" glass having two compartments, one for receiving a liquid and the other for receiving a quarter which is bounced off a surface. A slot may be formed in the second compartment to permit the quarter to exit the glass. A guide may be connected to the slot to guide the quarter to a predetermined area. The two compartments are arranged in an annular relationship.

Taggart, in U.S. Patent No. 5,857,584, describes a drinking glass liner utilized to retain ice pieces within a drinking glass and permit a liquid entrapped within the ice pieces to drain away from the ice pieces. The drinking glass liner comprises a mesh sheet having a textured front side, interconnected links which define openings, and ridges extending outwardly from a back side.

Protrusions, optionally, may extend outwardly from the front side to additionally retard movement of ice pieces. The ridges are provided to create a gap between an inner surface of the drinking glass and the back side to enable the liquid to freely flow away from the ice pieces.

In U.S. Patent No. 5,878,908, Foley discloses a supplemental feeding cup for infants wherein the feeding cup comprises a main receptacle member having an internal channel formed in the front wall of the receptacle member. The internal channel is in open fluid communication with an auxiliary reservoir member that projects outwardly from the front wall of the receptacle member.

Wright et al., in U.S. Patent No. 5,934,501, describe a beverage container for use with a drinking cup for dividing the cup into at least two individual beverage containing cells, each of which forms a discrete beverage container separate from the other. The beverage container comprises a semi-cylindrical, vertically tapered device, sized and shaped for mating insertion into a conventional tapered drinking cup. The beverage container includes a side wall, having a top rim forming an opening, and a bottom. The side wall includes a curved, vertically tapered first side wall portion and a generally planar, vertically tapered second side wall portion. An elongated flexible tab is connected on one end thereof along a curved portion of the beverage container rim and folds over the rim of the cup upon insertion. The tab includes markings for identifying the particular type, flavor, or brand of beverage contained within the beverage container portion of the drinking cup. The present invention thus allows a consumer to enjoy more than one flavor of beverage from a single cup, or, alternatively, allows a consumer to share a drink with a companion in a sanitary manner, while allowing the consumer and companion to each consume his or her beverage of choice.

U.S. Patent No. 5,954,213 by Gerhart et al. discloses a dual bottle formed by two separable, interlocked chambers. The chambers preferably each contain different ingredients and have adjacent

product exit apertures so that after leaving the chambers, the separate product streams can mix. Preferably, the chambers are identical, which simplifies manufacturing.

Wilson, in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2003/0052018 A1, describes a beverage cup having a detachable saliva reservoir so that a user may enjoy a beverage and smokeless tobacco products simultaneously. The cup has a saliva conduit running from its upper extremity down to a saliva reservoir which screws on the bottom. The upper portion of the conduit is formed into a mouthpiece which allows the user to easily deposit the saliva without the risk of it contaminating the contents of the cup. The beverage within the cup and the saliva reservoir are separated by an internal bulkhead. Cleaning is facilitated by the fact that the reservoir unscrews from the bottom. Both the cup and the reservoir are placed in a dishwasher or washed by hand.

In U.S. Design Patent No. 373,707, Seaburg shows a cup with an externally attached container for holding two cookies. Kilpatrick, et al., in U.S. Design Patents Numbers 409,442 and 416,443 show several multiple chamber drinking cups.

Applicant has devised a single vessel for the sequential consumption of a liquor beverage followed immediately by the consumption of a non-alcoholic or low alcohol content beverage chaser.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is directed to a two-compartment drinking vessel for consuming separate liquids. The vessel includes an outer drinking vessel having a closed bottom section, a generally vertical sidewall section intersecting the outer vessel bottom section, the sidewall section with an upper rim there around, the outer vessel having an open top. Within the outer vessel is an inner, closed bottom, linear vessel with a sidewall section having an upper rim there around, the inner vessel

having an open top. The linear interior vessel sidewall section extends essentially diagonally from a selected point on or adjacent the outer vessel upper rim, to a selected point at or adjacent the intersecting sidewall and bottom sections of the outer vessel. Liquids poured into the outer vessel and inner vessel are separately contained until the two-compartment vessel is tilted to elevate the outer vessel bottom relative to the selected point on the outer vessel upper rim adjacent the inner vessel sidewall section. The liquid contained by the inner vessel flows from the two-compartment vessel prior to the liquid contained in the outer vessel flowing therefrom.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

Figure 2 is another perspective view of the Figure 1 embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the Figure 1 embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

Figure 5 is another perspective view of the Figure 4 embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a top plan view of the Figure 4 embodiment of the concentric two-compartment drinking vessel of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Nomenclature

10	Two-Compartment Drinking Vessel
20	Outer Drinking Vessel
25	Bottom Section of Outer Vessel
30	Sidewall Section of Outer Vessel
35	Upper Rim of Outer Vessel
40	Open Top of Outer Vessel
50	Inner Drinking Vessel
55	Bottom Section of Inner Vessel
60	Sidewall Section of Inner Vessel
65	Upper Rim of Inner Vessel
70	Open Top of Inner Vessel
75	Supporting Wall Member

Construction

The present invention is directed to a concentric, two-compartment drinking vessel for consuming separate liquids. The vessel includes an outer drinking vessel having a closed bottom section, with a generally vertical sidewall section intersecting the outer vessel bottom section. The sidewall section has an upper rim there around, and the outer vessel has an open top. Within the outer vessel is an inner, closed bottom, linear vessel with a sidewall section having an upper rim there around. The inner vessel also has an open top. The linear interior vessel sidewall section extends

essentially diagonally from adjacent a selected point on the outer vessel upper rim to a selected point adjacent the intersecting sidewall and bottom sections of the outer vessel. Liquids poured into the outer vessel and inner vessel are separately contained until the two-compartment vessel is tilted to elevate the outer vessel bottom relative to the selected point on the outer vessel upper rim adjacent the inner vessel sidewall section. The liquid contained by the inner vessel flows from the two-compartment vessel prior to the liquid contained in the outer vessel flowing therefrom.

Referring now to Figures 1-3, one embodiment of the concentric, two-compartment drinking vessel **10** for consuming separate liquids is shown. The vessel **10** includes an outer drinking vessel **20**, having a closed bottom section **25**, and a generally vertical sidewall section **30** intersecting the outer vessel bottom section **25**. The sidewall section **25** includes an upper rim **35** there around, and the outer vessel has an open top **40**. Within the outer vessel **20** is an inner, linear vessel **50** with a closed bottom section **55** and a sidewall section **60** having an upper rim **65** there around. The inner vessel **50** also has an open top **70**. The linear interior vessel's sidewall section **60** extends essentially diagonally from adjacent a selected point on the outer vessel's upper rim **30** to a selected point adjacent the intersecting sidewall section **30** and bottom section **25** of the outer vessel **20**. Liquids poured into the outer vessel **20** and the inner vessel **50** are separately contained until the two-compartment vessel **10** is tilted to elevate the outer vessel bottom **25** relative to the selected point on the outer vessel's upper rim **30** adjacent the inner vessel's sidewall section **60**. The liquid contained by the inner vessel **50** flows from the two-compartment vessel **10** prior to the liquid contained in the outer vessel **20** flowing therefrom.

In the present embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 1-3, the upper rim **65** of the linear interior vessel sidewall section **60** contacts the selected point on the outer vessel upper rim **35**

and extends essentially diagonally toward the intersection of the sidewall section **30** and bottom section **25** of the outer vessel **20**. The contact between the vessel rims **35, 65** is best seen in Figure 3. The outer vessel's upper rim **35** and the inner vessel's upper rim **65** are essentially coplanar, as illustrated in Figures 1-3. In this embodiment, the linear interior vessel **50** is conical with an internal diameter decreasing with increasing distance from the open top **70** thereof. Alternatively, the linear interior vessel **50** may be cylindrical with a constant internal diameter from the open top **70** to the closed bottom section **55**. Preferably the two-compartment drinking vessel **10**, including both the outer vessel **20** and the inner vessel **50**, are fabricated from a transparent material, such as clear glass or a polymeric resin material. The transparency of both vessels **20, 50** allows the drinker to see the liquids contained within each compartment prior to consumption.

Another embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figures 4-6. In this embodiment, the upper rim **65** of the linear, interior vessel's sidewall section **60** is slightly separated from the selected point on the outer vessel's upper rim **35** and extends essentially diagonally toward the intersection of the sidewall section **30** and bottom section **25** of the outer vessel **20**. This embodiment of the invention includes a supporting wall member **75** between the inner vessel's sidewall section **60** and the outer vessel's sidewall section **30**, as illustrated in Figures 4 and 6. The supporting wall member **75** provides support and attachment of the inner vessel **50** with the outer vessel **20**, where the upper rim **65** of the inner vessel **50** does not contact the outer vessel's upper rim 35. In this embodiment of the invention, the sidewall upper rim **35** of the outer vessel **20** is planar and the sidewall upper rim **65** of the inner vessel **50** progressively descends below the plane of the outer vessel's sidewall rim **35** with increasing distance from the outer vessel's sidewall rim **35**. This preferred embodiment provides space for the drinkers upper lip and nose, as the drinker raises the

two-compartment drinking vessel **10** to consume the liquids contained separately therein. In the embodiment shown in Figures 4-6, the linear, interior vessel **50** is conical with an internal diameter decreasing with increasing distance from the open top **70** thereof. Alternatively, the linear interior vessel **50** may be cylindrical with a constant internal diameter from the open top **70** to the closed bottom section **55**. Preferably the two-compartment drinking vessel **10**, including both the outer vessel **20** and the inner vessel **50**, are fabricated from a transparent material, such as clear glass or a polymeric resin material. The transparency of both vessels **20**, **50** allows the drinker to see the liquids contained within each compartment prior to consumption.

The descriptions above and the accompanying materials should be interpreted in the illustrative and not the limited sense. While the invention has been disclosed in connection with the preferred embodiment or embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.